

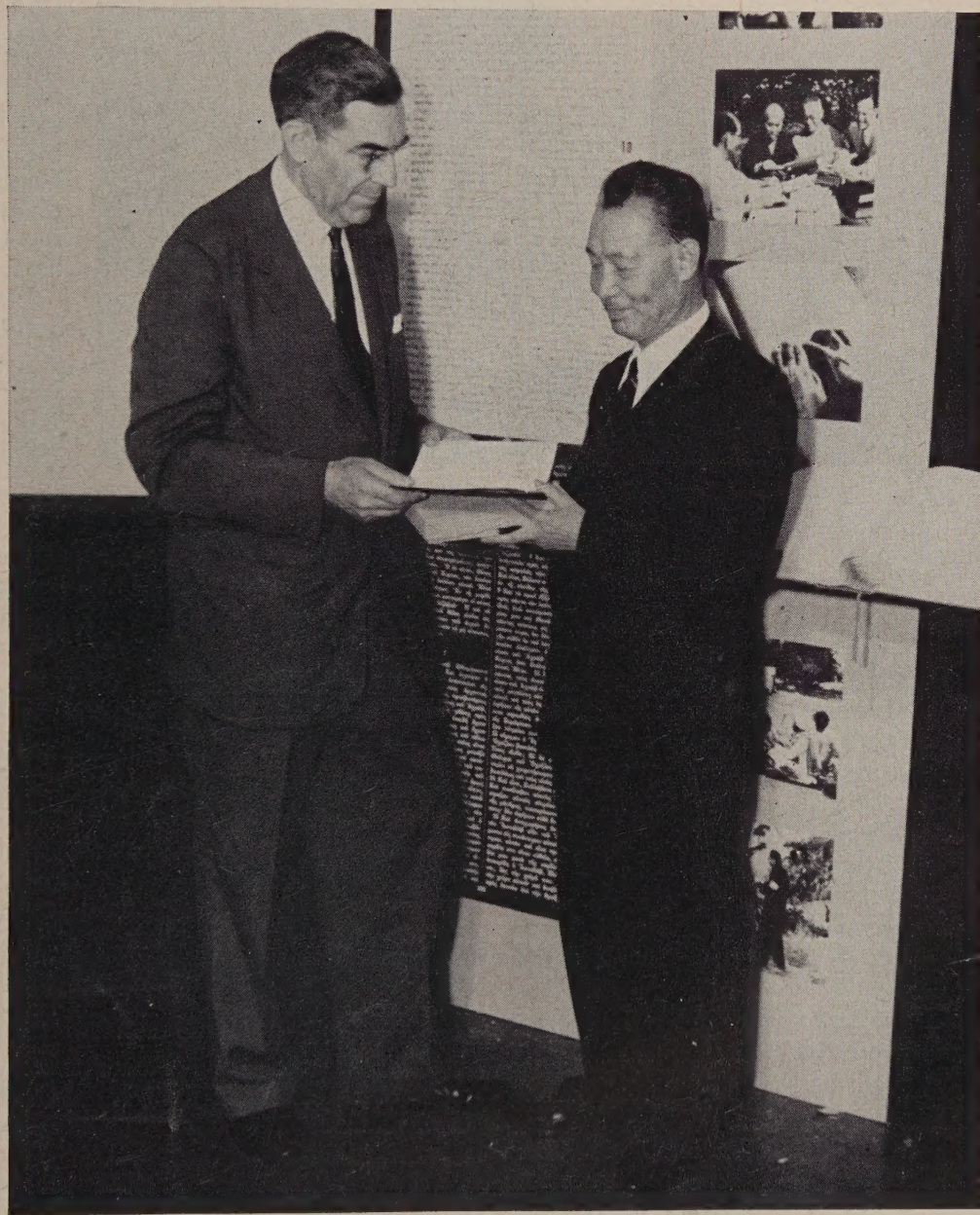
OCTOBER 1954

Vol. 99, No. 8



BIBLE
SOCIETY

Record



Dr. Shiro Murata, a member of the Japan Bible Society's Translation Committee, presents to Secretary North one of the first copies of the new translation of the New Testament into modern colloquial Japanese

Three Letters from Korea

A sequel to the story, "Teen-agers Observe Korea Night," in the September issue of the Bible Society Record

REE HYUN RYU is a member of the Bible Club of the Jwa Chun Dong Church in Pusan, Korea. On June 14 he wrote:

When we went to the Bible Club the other day, the staff of the Korean Bible Society brought us one box of gift. We were very anxious to know what was it. It was a box of nice Bible, of which we wanted to have for a long time. Each one of us have received one volume of Scriptures, with many thanks. We pray God for thanks and happiness.

The man from the Korean Bible Society notified us that these are the gifts from the friends in the United States. Thus we have the opportunity to write you this thank-you letter.

Each time we read the Bible we will remember you. We pray God's blessings be prosperous upon you all.

The letter was addressed to the young people of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of East Northport, New York, who had sent a consignment of Korean Bibles through the American Bible Society as an expression of their interest in making practical application of what they had been studying about the Christian life.

The Bibles were supplied to young people of the Jwa Chun Dong Church through the Korean Bible Society. On receipt of the order from the American Bible Society, Yu Ik, Depot Manager of the Korean Bible Society, wrote the Northport Church:

It is our great pleasure that we have the opportunity to write you.

Owing to the communists' invasion into South Korea in 1950, most of the people left their houses and properties and fled to South, so that found their haven in the port city of Pusan.

There are so many boys and girls who are not able to attend school due to poverty. Children who are attending

Sunday schools hardly can obtain Scriptures, though they wish to.

We have received a letter from Mr. Holmgren of the American Bible Society on May 24th. It was a letter in order from you to distribute \$20 value Scriptures to the boys and girls of the country.

There is a Bible Club in Jwa Chun Dong Church where the poor children study Bible. They are maintaining their living with the cockles hunted from the ashes thrown away from the locomotives of the nearby station.

We distributed the Scriptures which is the gift from you to each one of the children and explained them, these are gifts from the Sunday school boys in the United States.

They were very happy in receiving the Bibles and they

give prayer to God of thanks, and they wrote you a thank-you letter.

I pray God's rich blessings be with you all and forever.

And finally, on the official letterhead of the Republic of Korea came the following letter to the boys and girls of the Northport Bible Club, signed by Hongkee Karl, Director of the Office of Public Information, who wrote:

Will you please accept this letter as evidence of our appreciation of your generosity, and even more—of your deep interest in the future welfare of our young people and their salvation? You would be surprised and pleased if you knew how many of the real leaders in every walk of life in Korea are sincere Christians. While less than one in thirty of the population as a whole have accepted Christianity so far, these include the best-educated, public-spirited and most patriotic citizens.

I am sure when the Bibles being sent by the American Bible Society arrive and are distributed, your fine missionary work will start bearing fruit that will continue increasingly through the years. I know I speak for the President when I say again: Thank you!



The boys and girls of the Jwa Chun Dong Church displaying their new Bibles. Next to the children at the right is their teacher. Standing beside him is the Depot Manager of the Korean Bible Society

Bible Society Record

*A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE
HOLY SCRIPTURES*

VOLUME 99 OCTOBER · 1954 NUMBER 8

The Churches and The Bible

FROM the beginning of the Christian movement the Churches and the Bible have been inseparable. The first followers of Christ were Jews. To them worship meant principally the reading of the Law and the Prophets and the chanting of the Psalms.

The Old Testament thus became a part of the life of the first Christian churches. When the Apostles were gone and the Gospels and the letters of Paul began to appear, these and the other writings now comprising our New Testament also gradually came to be regarded as Scripture. Thus did the Holy Spirit entrust to the Christian Church its Bible.

From the first there have been three ways in which the Church has used the Bible. It has read the Bible; it has guided its own life by the Bible; and it has shared the Bible with those who did not have it. Space on this page does not permit elaboration of the first two of these, although they are basic. Unless the Bible is read one cannot learn how to live by its precepts; and sharing the Bible is only one of the ways of putting its teachings into practice. But it is this third use which the churches may make of the Bible, which concerns us here.

To share the Bible has from the beginning involved three major processes: the translating of the Bible into the languages the people require, the publishing of the Bible in forms the people can use and the getting of the copies into the hands of those who need it.

Along with all the other forms of community and missionary work in which every local church engages, this essential enterprise of sharing the Bible must never be forgotten. Yet it is often overlooked or taken for granted as a feature of other missionary service.

The mission boards of most denominations provide very little for translation work on their fields, yet this work, as well as the revision of earlier translations, is in many areas a constant need.

The publishing departments, likewise, of most Churches appropriate no funds for printing Bibles in the languages required by their missionaries, nor is any provision often made for pushing out beyond the established fields of mission work with copies of the Scriptures for people otherwise entirely unreached with the Gospel.

As the arm of all the Churches to serve them in

thus sharing the Bible, The American Bible Society has been perfecting its skills now for almost a century and a half. Through its Translations Department it is continually aiding missionaries in the struggles with strange tongues, offering counsel, supervision and cash contributions to their work.

Through its long experience the Society is constantly producing volumes of Scripture in readable, durable forms and at the lowest possible cost. Its publishing is done not only in this country but in many other parts of the world.

Under the supervision of its Offices in this country and its Agencies abroad the Society's own staff of colporteurs distributes hundreds of thousands of Scriptures to people who through no other missionary agency would ever receive them. Other thousands go out through Christian workers, missionaries, pastors, evangelists, many of whom serve as volunteers, happy to know that the volumes are available at cost price.

Is your church sharing the Bible with the millions who do not have it?

A few denominations include this essential missionary service in their regular budgets for worldwide work; others make a specific grant from their mission funds; still others designate an annual offering; but many thousands of churches take special local offerings.

On the basis of their other missionary giving the Bible Society has proposed goals of giving to the more than fifty denominations that support it. These goals are very modest indeed, calling for less than three cents a year from every member; and yet last year the total of these goals was only 77 per cent met.

What is your local church doing specifically to share the Bible with those who do not have it? If your church is one where the amount is fixed, you can help this year by making an additional gift through the World Good Will Book. If your church takes an offering each year for Bible Society work, possibly you can help to increase the gift. Or maybe your church is one of those—there are hundreds—who make no regular contribution to the Society for sharing the Bible. If so, why not write to the Bible Society for literature, which will gladly be sent, to help you arrange for the taking of a special offering before the year is out?

Venezuela Celebrates in October

BY KENNETH BYSTROM

THE Venezuela which entertained the tenth Inter-American Conference last March is very different from the Venezuela to which pioneer Bible men took the Bible one hundred years ago. The discovery of oil and iron has virtually changed the country from a sleepy tropical garden into a progressive industrial nation. The trail over which early colporteurs trudged to carry their Bibles from the seaport of La Guaira to Caracas is now a four-lane speedway which sweeps up to the capital, tunneling mountains and leaping deep chasms on graceful concrete-arch bridges. The traveler who visits Caracas today sees ultra-modern buildings fast replacing those of the traditional colonial type, and modern factories are evidence of the great strides which the country has taken in commerce and industry. Venezuela's chief problem, however, according to the great contemporary thinker, Don Miguel de Unamuno, is neither commercial nor industrial, but as in all other Latin American countries—spiritual, and only the Bible with its message of eternal hope has been able to deal adequately with it.

Although there is evidence that Bible work was done in Venezuela as early as 1825, it was not until 1854 that Rev. Ramón Montsalvatge was officially appointed by the American Bible Society as Agent for Spanish South America, with instructions to begin work in the northernmost republic—Venezuela. He reported that previous visits had been made to the country by colporteurs of the British and Foreign Bible Society and that on one occasion a certain Spaniard, having purchased two hundred Bibles for \$25, sold them to a monk in Caracas for \$60, who promptly and publicly burned them all. The “prohibited book” was seen in many homes, and even though people did not hesitate to buy it, Montsalvatge refused to sell it in quantities to any one individual, lest it meet the same fate as the two hundred Bibles purchased years before by the Caracas monk.

Montsalvatge tells of many interesting visits from the local clergy, some expressing favor and others disfavor concerning his work. The priest of La Guaira assured him he had nothing to fear because he had taken the motto of the apostle Paul, “Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.” He told him the Bible Society was doing the Venezuelan people a great favor by making the Scriptures available at so low a cost. One bishop accused him of being a Protestant minister who was “only a merchant in disguise,” and a French Jesuit made him an offer of \$1,200 if he would give up selling Bibles and leave the country, adding that he could easily secure the money from good Catholics in Caracas who would consider it an honor to contribute to the destruction of the books.

The next two decades saw little progress in the work.

Then the doors began to open. Francisco G. Penzotti, who journeyed tens of thousands of miles to distribute the Bible in Latin America together with another outstanding pioneer, Andrew J. Milne, visited Venezuela in 1886 and 1887. They reported that their house-to-house visitation in thirteen major cities, including the capital, resulted in the



Houses like these, built over the water in Lake Maracaibo, originally suggested the name of Venezuela (Little Venice)

placing of 2,660 volumes of Scripture. Milne strongly recommended that a resident Bible Agent be sent to Venezuela to extend the work throughout the entire country. When Dr. William Patterson was sent by the American Bible Society to carry on the work, he learned that Señor Osuna, the faithful colporteur who had collaborated with Milne and Penzotti, had through persecution lost his teaching position. He also learned that many of the Bibles distributed by these men had been destroyed. Fever took Dr.

Patterson's life after only two brief years of service with the Society, and again, for thirty years the work suffered because of economic and political unrest punctuated by constant revolutions.

Rev. Joseph Norwood stepped into the vacancy left by Dr. Patterson and served as Agent for both Venezuela and Colombia for twelve years. In 1892 he reported that little could be done by way of Scripture distribution until the

“The Roaches Never Got Another Bite”

Rev. John Van Kampen, who serves as a missionary in the State of Apure, Venezuela, relates the following, told him by Doña Rosa Morillo, a new Christian he had been privileged to lead to her Saviour. She became, as Mr. Van Kampen says, “a powerhouse for God and instrumental in leading most of her relatives and neighbors to Christ.” She told the missionary:

“At first I did not read or appreciate the treasure that I had in the Bible. It lay around the house until the cockroaches had almost eaten the covers off. Then one day I read a couple of chapters, and the cockroaches never got another bite. I kept it wrapped in a towel and took it to my *chinchorro* (hammock) every night. There is nothing I treasure more than my Bible now. After my conversion I prayed that God would give my husband the same love for Him and His Word that I had. My husband had purchased a book of black magic and was reading it. He kept that book in a bag hung from the wall, and it always seemed to me that the Devil himself lived in that bag because of that evil book. Then one day God answered my prayer; my husband asked where to begin in the Bible. I found him a chapter that had spoken to my heart. He read it; God convicted him, and the book of black magic went into the fire.”

rest resulting from civil war was quieted. Because the greater part of Venezuela's population lived near the coast and had to be reached by water, and because the customs laws of the country made it impossible to ship books from one port to another, Mr. Norwood purchased a small sloop and proposed to sail it under the American flag. Authorities in Caracas granted him special permission to use it as a propaganda vessel. He named the sloop "La Aurora" (The Dawn) and his constant prayer was that it would prove a means of spiritual dawn to the thousands along Venezuela's coastline who lived in spiritual darkness. The boat was also used on river trips to the interior of the country and members of Norwood's crew were hired only on the condition that they would help in distributing Scriptures whenever the boat was lying in port.

Mr. Norwood's move to Colombia in 1897 left Mr. Gerard A. Bailly, a missionary of the Christian and Missionary Alliance, in charge of Scripture distribution in Venezuela. His work as well as that of other missionaries was entirely on a voluntary basis. The first evangelical church building erected in Venezuela still stands as a monument to the sacrificial ministry of this pioneer of the faith, and today work goes forward in this "Church of the Dawn" under the auspices of the Presbyterian Mission.



Colporteur Antonio Ramos interests a shopkeeper in purchasing a Bible

In 1908 the American Bible Society appointed Mr. Bailly Acting Agent for both Venezuela and Puerto Rico, and there were bright prospects for the future of the work. The venture lasted for only two years, however, when Puerto Rico was again placed under the West Indies Agency. Bubonic plague swept over Venezuela in 1909, making it very difficult for the work of Scripture distribution.

In 1917-18 the work in Venezuela was placed under the Caribbean Agency, with Mr. Bailly acting as subagent for Venezuela. Except for a few years, Venezuela remained part of the Caribbean Agency until 1940. In 1923 Mr. Bailly reported that, in spite of the depressing economic situation, the people wanted the Bible more than ever and its distribution was increasing constantly. The discovery of oil in 1925 improved general living conditions, making it possible for many more to procure their own copy of the

Bible. In 1934 the Agent for the Caribbean Agency reported that Venezuela had been its most fruitful field during the year. As time went on, missionaries reaped more and more fruit from the seed that was sown by the early Bible colporteurs, and today modern church buildings and active congregations witness to their effective ministry.

In 1940 the American Bible Society and the British and Foreign Bible Society consolidated their efforts by forming a Joint subagency under the administration of the American Bible Society. In 1946 the Venezuela-Colombia area was formed into an Agency. The Agency was supervised by Dr. Raymond Gregory, Secretary of the Central America Agency; and Rev. Andrés Key served as subagent for Venezuela from 1940 until his tragic death in 1950. Upon the retirement of Dr. Gregory in 1951, Kenneth Bystrom was appointed in charge of the distribution program for Venezuela.

Outstanding among the host of missionaries and nationals who have cooperated in the Bible work over the past years are Rev. C. A. Phillips of the Presbyterian Mission and Señor Raul León of the Evangelical Free Church. These men have given sacrificially of their time and effort in the advancement of Scripture distribution, and a proper evaluation of the work would be incomplete without mentioning them.

And now, one hundred years after the Bible was first introduced into Venezuela, Scriptures in approximately thirty different languages are pouring out of the Bible depot in Caracas at the average rate of seven hundred volumes per day. The national Church is assuming more and more responsibility in both Scripture distribution and the financial support of the work. The door-to-door colportage method, although the most costly, is still considered to be the most effective means of Scripture distribution, as it alone provides that necessary personal contact with individuals.

A Venezuela Bible Centennial will be celebrated in October. Materials which include a suggested Bible Day program have been sent to nearly two hundred evangelical churches throughout the country; prayer and thanksgiving will be offered to God for the gift of His Word to the people of Venezuela.

In response to a request made by Secretary Osberg of the Society's Eastern District Office, Mrs. Howard Wilcox of Rocky Hill, Connecticut wrote stating that on account of her advanced age of eighty-five years she could not serve as a regular distributor, but she added: "I am still seeking to help souls to find Christ, but because of my limited strength much of my work now has to be done by letter. I have given out, or sent in letters, many copies of John's Gospel and would like one dozen more copies. While I do not wish to enroll as a distributor, I am seeking to do in the way God leads me what my strength allows."

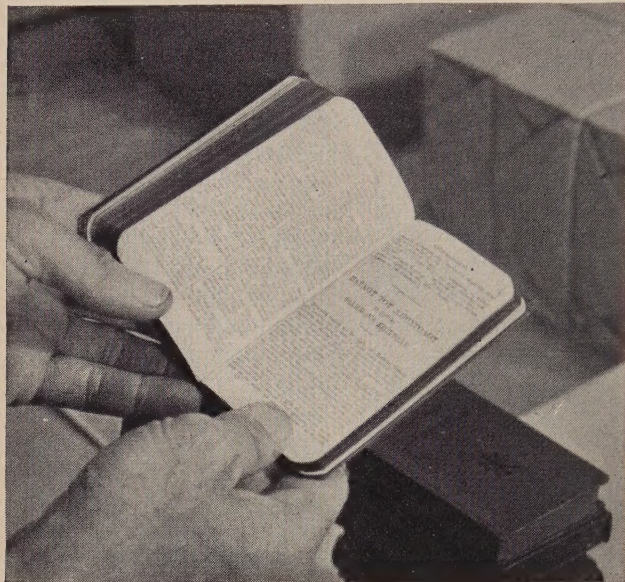
A distributor indeed!

A generous gift for the Society's work was recently received from Mrs. Minnie E. Jackson of Spokane, Washington. Mrs. Jackson is 97 years old and lives in a nursing home. Her friend who transmitted the gift states that Mrs. Jackson is very frail and has sold her wedding ring and other articles to make possible her gift, so that a few Bibles may be distributed by the Society to those who need them. Consecrated devotion indeed!

New Testaments for the Greek Army

BY GEORGE KLADIS

IT WAS about five years ago, when the Greek Army was engaged in guerilla fighting, that a request to the Bible Society was made by the Army chaplain for New Testaments for distribution among the men.



Examining one of the Greek Testaments before it leaves the printer

This request was met with the same prompt and hearty response with which all similar requests are met, and about 225,000 Pocket Testaments were shipped soon after. Of these 175,000 were in Modern Greek, printed by the American Bible Society, and 50,000 in Ancient Greek, printed in Canada by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Since then further consignments have been made. The annual requirements of the Greek Army are estimated at 100,000 copies, which the Bible Society has gladly agreed to supply. The contribution on the part of the Bible Society toward the spiritual nurture of the country through free distribution of the Word of God is appreciated by all concerned; and King Paul, when he visited the Bible House in New York last year, expressed his thanks to the Board of Managers for the New Testaments supplied free to the Greek Army.

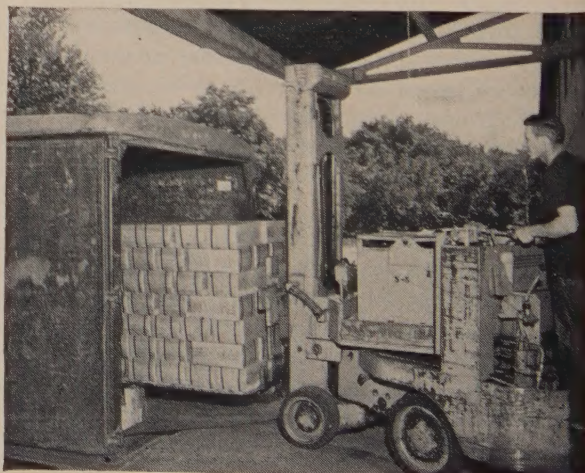
The Army Chaplain Archimandrite Roussochatzakis, who is in charge of Religious Service at Greek Army Headquarters and is therefore mainly responsible for the distribution of the Testaments to the men, has sent us the following report:

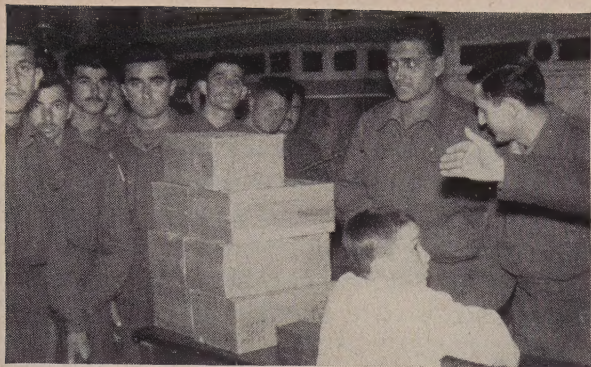
It is a highly important fact that today the whole Greek Army is supplied with a New Testament. There is no officer or soldier who lacks opportunity to study the Word of God. This splendid result has been achieved through the kind offer of the Bible Society, which uninterruptedly supplies the Greek Army with New Testaments. The

copies received are being sent by the Religious Service of the Army Headquarters to the recruiting centers throughout Greece for distribution. In this way no recruit who joins the Army is left without a copy of the New Testament . . . It is now a common sight in Greek barracks to see men during the hours of rest or when off duty reading the New Testament. What is also important is that through the Army, Greek homes are gradually being supplied with New Testaments, because the men, when discharged, take their copies home with them. This enhances the importance of supplying the Greek Army with a New Testament. It may generally be said to all those who support the distribution of New Testaments to the Greek Army that their sacrifices are not in vain, and that a very great spiritual good results therefrom. The Greek Army sends its warmest thanks to the donors and to the Bible Society for the interest shown and prays that the Lord may richly bless them.

An important part played by the Bible Society would not be obvious to the American public if we dwelt merely on the fact of a free distribution of the Scriptures and its results. Stories of persons who for the first time took up a New Testament to read and of the transformation they felt in their lives through the Gospel light are not unknown to those conversant with Bible Society work. What we should like to bring to the reader's attention is that the Bible Society has not merely come forward to make a gift in response to a request, important though that may be, but has also through many years of pioneer work silenced serious opposition and overcome deeply rooted prejudices against a version of the Testament in Modern Greek, until we have come to the present totally changed times, when not only is the circulation of our Modern Greek version permitted but is also encouraged by a great part of the clergy themselves. A more up-to-date version is now the longing

Loading a truck with Greek Testaments for their journey from the printers in Indiana to shipside on the Atlantic seaboard





A consignment of Testaments for the Greek Army is distributed at the Athens Cathedral



Winter-time distribution outside the barracks

of many interested in the wide circulation of the Scriptures. The change in the attitude of the Greek Orthodox Church toward the Bible in recent years is something which has surpassed the anticipation of even the most optimistic; and, what is more important still, this change has sprung up not among a few

in official circles but among a number of clergymen and laymen. The Bible Society is, and will be, making a great contribution toward this reawakening of interest in the Bible by offering the Scriptures at low prices both from the Depot and through its colporteurs.

German Refugees Send Their Thanks

IT WAS recently reported that as many as 2,000 people each week were finding their way across the border into West Germany. This migration has been in process to some degree for several years, with the result that there are thousands of people in desperate need in West Germany. Heroic efforts are being made to meet this need, which is not only physical but spiritual.

For many months the American Bible Society has been helping the Bible Societies of Germany to supply these refugees with Scriptures. A recent letter came from Pastor Ehrenfried Keller of the Inner Mission Hilfswerk reporting on a consignment of books provided through one of the Society's gifts. They had been distributed in refugee camps and bunker relief stations, in churches, convalescent homes and city missions. Pastor Keller forwarded some letters from recipients, from a few of which we quote here:

Some time ago we received, in response to our request, a large number of Bible portions as a gift from the American Bible Society for free distribution.

In our church, which has now been rebuilt after being badly damaged, we have a pamphlet table. In order to give to people the opportunity for silent worship, we keep our church open. Many people make use of it. These portions are now lying on our pamphlet table and may be taken free of charge. Such booklets may either be used for silent meditation in the church or may be taken away to be read at home. Many people not known to us make use of them, so that we are continually having to replace them. We are convinced from this that much silent blessing goes

out from this pamphlet service, even though we cannot give more details about it. We therefore thank the donors very warmly for making it possible for us to carry out this distribution. In this way God's Word reaches many homes and, we hope, many hearts. It is good seed on which we may base our hopes.

You were kind enough to put a copy of the Bible at the disposal of myself and various other women in my work circle. We thank you very warmly for this. We had often missed the Bible, whether for reading a passage as we formerly did in our home, or on many occasions when we thought we could hardly go on any further for recalling a definite passage more clearly to our memory, finding in it a word of comfort.

In view of the smallness of allowances for the aged poor, of relief for refugees no longer fit for work, and of allowances for the unemployed, which are insufficient for more than the bare necessities of life, even the provision of a Bible is a luxury which cannot be included in the budget but which holds within it a message of comfort for "the people in darkness." Allow me therefore to express my warm thanks and to send you friendly greetings.

I should like to express on my own behalf and in the name of the recipients our warmest thanks for the gift of Bibles. In my service in camps, bunkers and shelters in the city of Hamburg the Bible is often a great and valuable help. Along with all the rebuffs one meets in these cities, here and there one engages in a deep and frank conversation. For many the way to faith and inquiry for the Word of God is blocked. The power of evil, with its hostility, temptations—especially in the large towns—disillusionment, lack of work and housing, have added to this resist-

(Continued on page 127)

Reading the Bible

"BUT ARE they reading them?" asked a skeptical American churchman when he was told that in addition to a record sale by commercial Bible publishers of over two million whole Bibles in the United States last year, the American Bible Society had far surpassed any year in its long history of Scripture distribution in the homeland. The Society's figure was 9,726,391 Bibles, Testaments and Portions. Possibly more than 12,000,000 copies of the Scriptures were circulated in the United States last year. Were they read?

EUROPE



She is reading her Bible in a section of Europe where Bible publishing has been officially forbidden



MARSHALL ISLANDS



This lad is hearing the Gospel read in the Marshallese language on the little island of Majuro in the Marshall Archipelago



PHILIPPINES

These two little girls attend the training school conducted by the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Zamboanga in the Southern Philippines. They are reading in their native tongue—the Ilocano



Of course they were, but to what extent no one knows. They were read to millions of people in thousands of churches. They were studied by millions of Sunday-school pupils, and thousands more children in vacation church-schools who never went to Sunday school. There are over 200,000 churches in the country; surely an average of twenty-five persons in every church are regular Bible readers: this totals 5,000,000 more.

Let us grant that the Bible faces its stiffest opposition in America. It has more books to compete with; Americans have more interests to claim their time; it is easier for Americans to forget God in the midst of their prosperity.

The only fair way, however, to appraise the Bible is to regard it not as America's book but as the world's book. The Bible is available not only in the English language but in every principal language men speak. Besides the 200 tongues into which the whole Bible has been published, the whole New Testament has appeared in 257 more tongues; and some lesser Portion of the Scriptures, but at least a whole book of the Bible, has been translated and published in still 620 more languages. There were eighteen languages added to this list last year, many of them receiving a single Gospel as the first book of any sort ever published in those tongues. Indeed, in the past half century, language after language has been reduced to writing, so that people might have God's Word in permanent form for continuous reading and study. There are not a few tribes whose Scriptures are their principal if not their only books.

Are they reading the Bible?—There are great nations that are clamoring for more copies of it than can be supplied. This is true of Brazil, where the evangelical constituency is growing faster, so it is claimed, than anywhere else on earth. Against many obstacles, there were again approximately a million and a half volumes of Scripture distributed in Brazil last year. When a book is hard to get, one is assured that most copies are

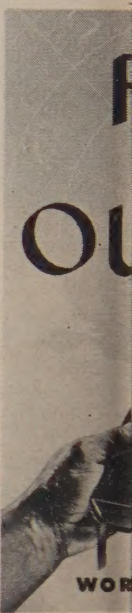
BOLIVIA

He lives in the Cochabamba region of Bolivia and reads his Scriptures in the Bolivian Quechua language



AFRICA

These two boys attend the school provided by the Africa Inland Mission on the Island of Ukara in Lake Tanganyika



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his own church (or a group of churches of his neighborhood) through the collaboration of local pastors and through promotion by the newspapers, libraries and radio and television stations in the community. He can stimulate its spread across the Samaria of his own country and unto the uttermost parts of the earth by his support of the work of the Bible Society which has now for almost a century and a half been perfecting its skills for the single purpose of getting the Bible to the world.

read, and read usually not by a single person but by several in a household or a community.

In Japan, where, in April, the Bible Society there brought out the New Testament in a simple colloquial form of the language, the people are taking fresh interest in Bible reading, which has been very popular ever since the close of the war.

Secretary Fonger in Manila writes that Worldwide Bible Reading in the Philippines continues to grow in popularity. Not only was it necessary last year to resort to a reprint of the bookmark reading lists for the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas period, but every year more people are asking for lists to follow for every day in the year.

Similar reports might be cited from other areas—Korea, Formosa, Africa, Mexico, the islands of the seas. All told, last year, for the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas the readings were followed in at least thirty-eight countries. The shipment of supplies to implement the program included that of 21,000 copies of the poster without any English wording, so that they could be imprinted by the Society's foreign agents in the languages of the people.

The Bible is the world's book. There are hundreds of millions of people who have never seen a copy, but there is scarcely a nation on earth where at least some part of God's Word is not available and where there are some who know the joy of feeding their souls on its precepts and of commending it to others.

The pictures on these pages give some idea of the various ways in which interest in the Scriptures is being cultivated. The observance of Worldwide Bible Reading each year promotes an opportunity to stimulate the practice of Bible-reading the world around. One can do so in the Jerusalem of his own home by instituting the practice of family Bible-reading for the period from Thanksgiving to Christmas. He can encourage it in the Judea of his own community by organizing for concerted Bible-reading

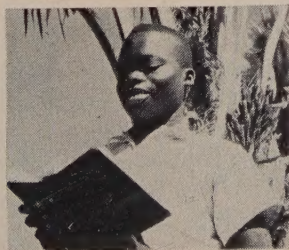
JAPAN

Miyoko Arino Yamanashi-Ken
is a Japanese junior-college
girl who loves to read her big
Japanese Bible



BELGIAN CONGO

He is an elder in his church in the
city of Aba in the northeast corner
of the Belgian Congo. He reads his
Bible in the Bangala language



JAPAN



Mrs. Sakata is the wife of an ink manu-
facturer of the city of Osaka who is a promi-
nent member of the Board of Managers
of the Japan Bible Society

THAILAND



Many Karens from Burma now live in
Thailand. These two, members of a
church established by the American Bap-
tist mission, are reading their beloved
Karen New Testament

MICRONESIA

Two Kipangimarangi churchmen on
the Island of Ponape are looking for
the day when they will have more of
the Scriptures in their language





God's Acre

MOTHER called the girls very early one morning in October. Mary and Molly did not want to get up, but Daddy came to the door, too: "Get up, my twins, today the harvesters are coming!"

The girls were out of bed at once. They washed and put on their blue jeans. They had been excused from school for two days because there was so much work everyone would be needed to help.

The rolling fields of wheat were ripe and ready for the combines to come and harvest it. There would be twenty-four men for dinner, and the twins were good helpers. They set the tables, carried lunches and helped wash the great stacks of dishes.

About seven o'clock the big combines began to cut the grain. They were pushed by tractors, and as the combines rolled down the field the grain was cut and threshed. The wheat went into a big truck, and the straw was scattered over the field. Now and then the hired man drove a hayrack beside the combine and hauled the straw to the barn, where it was stored. It would be used during the winter to make beds for the little calves and nests for the hens.

The twins had a ride in the hayrack; they bounced on the straw and slid in it. It smelled sweet and fresh.

The men ate a big meal at noon. There were mountains of fried chicken and dozens of pies and great mounds of mashed potatoes. Daddy said grace, and everyone began to eat. The food disappeared like a snowbank in the sun. Then the men went outside to rest on the porch until it was time to start the combines again.

That afternoon the minister came out to help with the harvest. "I used to live on a farm and I don't want to forget how to pitch," he said. "When I was a boy we didn't have combines; we used a binder, and then we had threshers. My mother used to cook just as you do; for, one thing about harvesters—they are always hungry." Mary and Molly went with the Rev. Mr. Lenz out to the field and he drove the hayrack for the hired man.

At four o'clock there was lunch, and they all sat in the shade and ate sandwiches and drank ice-cold lemonade. Mother had made a giant milk can full of lemonade, and it was both sweet and sour and ice cold. The twins helped pour it into the tall glasses. Then there was gingerbread, huge squares of it; and soon it was gone too.

Then Daddy told one of the men to run a combine over to a corner where the grain stood tall and yellow. The wheat heads were long and full. The grain was clean, and not a weed was to be seen.



"Look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest"

JOHN 4:35

The minister walked over with Daddy to watch the combine start to harvest this special acre. "What's this," the minister wanted to know—"some special seed you are raising?"—"No," said Daddy, "this is God's share. We keep this corner for our special crop. The twins keep the weeds out of it and I sow my best seed here. Then when we harvest, I keep the grain separate and it sells for a very good price. The money goes to the church and to our special gifts."

"Last year," Daddy went on, "we gave it all to the church because we were building the new addition to the church school and we felt that besides our regular contribution, we should give all the money we could to help care for our children in the church school. This year all the money from this plot goes to the American Bible Society."

The minister nodded his head. "I think that is a wonderful idea, and I wish all my congregation felt the same way."

Daddy watched the grain pouring into the truck. "We had a letter this summer from a cousin of mine who lives in the town in West Germany where my grandparents came from. She told us they need Bibles and very few were available.

"I wrote to the Bible Society, and they told me they were sending Bibles to Germany as rapidly as they could and tried to supply the requests they receive from the people who are coming from East Germany. Now I want to send them enough money to pay for those Bibles, for the people of Germany need the Bible and other places do too."

Pastor Lenz put his hand on Daddy's shoulder, "God will bless you, my son, for this fine work you are doing. There is no gift in the world which means so much to all people as the Bible."

The next Sunday the minister told the story of God's Acre in his sermon. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof," the minister said. "We are only giving back part of what God has given us. We are workers together for Him."

Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
And back of the flour the mill,
And back of the mill is the wheat and the shower,
And the sun and the Father's will.

—Maltbie D. Babcock

(Continued from page 123)

ance. But talking alone does not succeed in satisfying a newly awakened desire for God; one must also offer quite practical help to these people. How thankful I am to have this in the Bible—the Word of God. Bible reading can provide a regular daily acquaintance with the Word of God.

Here is an example of the situations I find. The setting is one of the bunker cells on the sixth floor of a tall bunker. No daylight penetrates the walls, which are three feet thick; water runs down; a thick atmosphere fills the room. In a corner there is a man sitting on a wire bed, absorbed in his own thoughts. He does not know me yet. As I enter he tries to hide something. In the end it is revealed: a Bible. From a chat with him it appears that his last earthly hopes have been shattered. News has reached him that his absent relatives have perished; he himself will no longer be able to work, and he will therefore have no support, no maintenance. He cherished the memory of going to church with his parents on Sunday, but he now had no courage or strength to find his way there. A special invitation was of no use. He was ashamed to be seen with the open Bible and was reading from this gift of one of my colleagues as if from something that was forbidden. Perhaps here it might help someone to a new life. I am praying that it may.

We are very grateful to the American Bible Society for the consignment of Bibles and New Testaments. Already in the past we have on occasion received gifts from your society through American service centers in Germany and have always been very glad of them. We have offered Portions at our farewell parties on board ship; others received a Bible or New Testament on special recommendation. One must remember that half the people who have come to our service for help are Volksdeutsche from the East, for whom the Bible was once a book of the home. But in

their sudden flight they had to leave them, or lost their copy, and are often glad when a Bible finally comes into their possession again.

Other Bibles and Portions are often sent to very poor parishes in countries overseas to which refugees of German origin have gone. Their pastors often beg us in moving terms to help them with Bibles and hymn books. Thus, recently we have sent a consignment to Chile and several to Brazil. How much a Bible means in the home of a settler cannot be imagined. Since the new settlers are too poor to buy books for themselves, the Bible is, as it was 300 years ago in Germany, the only or one of the few books that the settler possesses. A colonist reads from it at the services of worship which individual families arrange; the candidate for confirmation takes it if the pastor stops for a few weeks in a colony in order to prepare the children needing confirmation.

You have made a gift to us through the Stuttgart Bible Society of a great number of Bibles for our work among refugees in the camps and bunkers in Hamburg. I should like with all my heart, and in the name of my colleagues, to thank you for this. At the center of our whole work among 15,000 people in fifteen camps in our care is the cure of souls, and at the center of the cure of souls is the proclamation of the Word of God. In each camp we try to hold Bible lessons, gathering together men, women and young people. We continually meet people who would gladly deepen their knowledge of the Bible. The majority of those in our care are unemployed. We are grateful and happy that we can now help them with a Bible. Naturally, we are also engaged in relief work. In these days of poverty it is extremely important. But nevertheless the goal of all this relief work remains that of leading people to Christ through His Word.

The Gospel for Puerto Rican Migrants

Mr. Quinones explains the Scriptures to the cook at the Brant labor camp



BRANT, New York is just a short distance south of Buffalo and is in the center of a thriving agricultural area, the source of many of the fruits and vegetables on the tables of people on the Eastern seaboard.

Much of the labor necessary to cultivate and harvest these products in the Brant area is supplied by Puerto Ricans, who come up for the summer season from their native island to help in this specific project. Only men are chosen for this task and they are flown both ways.

For many years there has been a very active work among these people by migrant ministers appointed by the Home Missions Department of the National Council of Churches and the New York State Council of Churches. The Scriptures are an important tool in the hands of these migrant chaplains, for they find in the people they serve an eagerness to know the Word of God, to learn English and to profit as much as possible by the experience of working in the United States.

James Quinones, chaplain for 1954, is a Puerto Rican who speaks not only his native Spanish but fluent English. He well knows the power of the Word of God in his ministry, because it has meant so much in his own life. This is the third season Mr. Quinones has served in the migrant camp at Brant, and he is grateful for the wide variety of Scriptures available to him in both Spanish and English from the American Bible Society.

Bible Festival in Beirut

BY F. LYMAN MACCALLUM

WITH swift, professional movements the workmen were placing the tables and hanging the drapes for the Bible exhibition in the university common room at Beirut, Lebanon. It had been a lot of work planning and making ready for the 150th anniversary celebrations undertaken by the Advisory Council. Now all was set for the opening next day, March 28, 1954, with every promise for a most successful week of gatherings designed to bring the Bible to the attention of all classes of the Lebanese public.

As the workmen were busy hanging the large charts and diagrams, the manager of the hall came round with a warning that all who did not wish to remain within the university compound for some hours had better leave now, while the way was still open. The students were intent on carrying out a prohibited political demonstration; this might result in the closing of the gates till the trouble was over. Scarcely an hour later the hospital was busy with wounded men, and the government had put the university out of bounds to the public for a week! Quite accidentally, the jubilee celebrations had thus been torpedoed.

Salvage operations commenced immediately. His Excellency, Camille Chamoun, President of the Lebanese Republic, graciously proposed the Evangelical church as an alternative location for the festival assembly, which he would attend. A nearby hall was found for the week's lectures and film projections. The exhibition had to be held over for five weeks till a suitable vacancy occurred in the schedule of the University common room. Last-minute notifications of this complete change of the published program naturally meant an immense amount of work at high pressure for the Bible Society's Subagent, Mr. Fouad Accad, and his loyal staff. All the colporteurs of the Syria-Lebanon Subagency were brought to Beirut for the week, and the Advisory Council gathered for its annual meeting on the afternoon of the festival.

The Evangelical church was filled to the last sitting by the time the Rev. Farid Audeh, D.D., President of the Advisory Council of the Bible Society, brought President Camille Chamoun and Mrs. Chamoun forward to the two seats placed for them before the platform. On this platform were ranged a distinguished group of clergy and others whom probably no subject other than the Bible could have brought thus together.

After the choir of the National Evangelical Church of Beirut had led the assembly in singing the Lebanese national anthem, the chairman, Pastor Audeh, speaking in Arabic, explained the reasons for and aims of the festival. The Rev. James Roe, M.A.,



Above this section of the exhibit is a picture of Secretary MacCallum presenting a Bible to His Excellency, the President of the Lebanese Republic, at the Bible Festival which took place about a month before the exposition.



Professor Baz, left, a member of the Agency's Advisory Council, examines with Mr. Accad a copy of one of the Scripture volumes in Braille.



Colporteur Maurice explains some of the exhibits to visitors.

Secretary for the Bible Lands Agency, South, then brought the good wishes of the parent Society in London. He was followed by His Grace, Mar Saweros Touma, Syrian Orthodox Metropolitan of Beirut and Damascus, who made a most picturesque figure in the robes and black silk turban of his ancient church. His address in liveliest Arabic was a

masterpiece. His Grace, Bishop Terenig Poladian, of the Armenian National Church, spoke in English on the ancient Armenian version of the Bible, "the Queen of translations," as it is often called by those able to appreciate its beauty. Next came the Archimandrite, Ghofreel Saleeby, of the Greek Orthodox Church, who was followed by the Rev. Garabed Mkikyan of the Armenian Evangelical Church, and Mr. Fouad Accad, Bible Society Subagent for Lebanon and Syria. This flow of oratory was pleasantly interspersed with anthems by the Evangelical choir and by ancient Arabic hymns in Byzantine modes by a small male choir of the Orthodox Church. A cable of good wishes from Secretary Paul Collyer on behalf of the American Bible Society was read by the chairman in English and Arabic.

Mr. Lyman MacCallum, Secretary for Bible Lands Agency, North, now came down the platform steps—holding in his hands an Arabic Bible in a rich binding, tied with ribbons of red and white, the national colors. In his brief address of presentation Mr. MacCallum referred to the book as essential for the citizens of a democracy. He expressed the hope that through its possession this book would bring a blessing to all the citizens of Lebanon.

After accepting the Bible President Chamoun ascended to the pulpit and expressed his thanks and good wishes. The 150th anniversary of the founding of the Bible Society, he said, was a notable occasion. During this long period the members of that Society had spread throughout the world, carrying to the ears and hearts of mankind the message of this Divine Book—a message of kindness, tolerance, love and peace. Members of the Evangelical community, through whom this Society chiefly worked, were notable for their love of country, their eagerness for education and their earnest effort to express in community life the high ideals and sublime truth taught in their Book. In congratulating and thanking the members of the Bible Society and all members of the Advisory Council he prayed God's blessing on all the citizens of the Lebanon.

The entire ceremony, lasting ninety minutes, was broadcast by Radio Liban, so that it was heard from the end of the land. A loudspeaker in front of the church made the ceremony available to the large crowd of honor drawn up there, as well as to those who had not been able to find room inside. Thus the festival, which was the climax of the week's jubilee, accomplished its main purpose of reminding the nation of its Bible.

On the seven evenings of lectures with films were less well attended than would have been the case in the university hall, where the postponed exhibition of the Scriptures was held from May 4 to 11. The layout and the plays attracted the attention of over 1,100 visitors, many copies of the Scriptures were sold and good press notices received. With some of these visitors interesting spiritual conversations were held. Nor did the

exhibition end with its closing; all of it is to be used again in one or two cities in Egypt.

Scriptures for the Papago Indians

Mrs. Maxine Back of the Assembly of God Indian Mission in Tucson has written the Bible House as follows:

Our heartfelt thanks to you for sending us the Bibles, New Testaments and Gospels which we requested and were so generously donated to our mission to assist in the evangelization of our Papago Indians.

The Indians we work with are from the San Xavier Reservation; many of them still live on the reservation. We do personal evangelism on the reservation also. There is a good hospital there, with thirty-seven beds for adults and eleven baby cribs. They have an excellent doctor and six registered nurses. They give our Indians the best of



At the dedication of the Scriptures supplied to the Papago Indians in December 1953, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Back are at the extreme rear left and Mr. Oscar Smith at the extreme right in the back row

care, which is free. The hospital is government-owned, and its management have given us a hearty welcome to visit the patients. We deeply appreciate this.

Our gift from the Bible Society included twenty-four Bibles, fifty New Testaments and five hundred Gospels. We are prayerfully distributing these in the homes and have placed some in the hospital. We find a hunger for the Word of God among our Indians. A few of the Bibles have been retained for distribution as needed. We plan to cover more territory of the San Xavier Reservation in the near future.

Most of our mission members are of the Papago Tribe. However, we have some Pima Indians. Our mission was started about two years ago. Our Sunday-school attendance runs from thirty to forty, with a church attendance that totals fifty at times. Brother Oscar Smith, distributor for the Bible Society, visited our services and brought a photographer with him. They took pictures of our service the day we dedicated our Scriptures at the time they arrived. We had a wonderful meeting.

Only eternity will reveal the extent of the harvest which will be reaped as a result of sowing the seed of the Word of God in the homes of our dear Indians.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Bible Society Record

A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

*Address correspondence to the
Managing Editor*

FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

*450 Park Avenue
New York 22, N. Y.*



Vol. 99 OCTOBER 1954 No. 8

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

OCTOBER

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
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4	I Chronicles	17	19	Hebrews2
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7	II Chronicles	6:1-21	22	Hebrews6
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			27	I Timothy1
			28	I Timothy2
			29	I Timothy3
			30	I Timothy4
			31	I Timothy5
				Sunday,	
				I Timothy6

* *

All the Help Does Not Come from America

When Secretary Holmgren was visiting in Thailand last December, he addressed a large group of Christian people. Among other matters he spoke of was the recent tragedy which had struck the city of Pusan in Korea and the Korean Bible Society. In the audience was a woman who had charge of the World Day of Prayer for Thailand. She persuaded the Christian women of the Church of Christ in Thailand to contribute half their World Day of Prayer offering to the restoration of the Korean Bible Society. The gift recently came to Mr. Holmgren's desk, amounting to \$93.76, and was forwarded to Secretary Young Bin Im of the Korean Society—another instance of our worldwide oneness in Christ.

This picture was taken in the heart of downtown Buffalo, where most of the city's bus lines terminate. The pedestal is unique because, instead of being a memorial to some person or past event, it is a living testimony to the Word of God.

In a glass case at a convenient reading level is a Bible which is opened to a fresh passage each day for the passer-by to read.

The pedestal was erected by the Buffalo City and Erie County Bible Society in co-operation with St. Paul's Cathedral and bears witness to the belief of the churches of Buffalo in the power of the open Bible. A bronze tablet on the front of the brown stone pedestal carries the quotation from the 119th Psalm, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light un-



to my path." In the picture Secretary Walter Spaeth of the Buffalo City and Erie County Bible Society points out a helpful verse to a passer-by.

To thousands who pass this point daily the pedestal gives an opportunity to read, to some for the first time, the words that have done so much to make this world a better place for all in which to live. In a semicircle around the pedestal are benches where the weary may sit, often to meditate after having read from God's Word.

The Buffalo City and Erie County Bible Society, an auxiliary of the American Bible

Society and founded in 1847, has made the Scriptures readily available to the people of Erie County, mainly in English but also in many other languages.

August Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, at 3:30 P.M., on August 5, 1954, President Daniel Burke, LL.D., in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mr. C. E. Leavers.

The minutes of the July meeting of the Board were approved.

Mr. Henry G. Raab was elected a Manager.

Mr. Kenneth Bystrom was appointed Secretary of the Colombia-Venezuela Agency.

A grant of 4,000 Croatian Bibles and 6,000 Croatian New Testaments and Psalms was authorized to be sent to the Yugoslav Agency of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

There was presented to the Board a first-edition copy of the Gospel of St. Matthew in Portuguese Braille, copies already being on their way for distribution to the blind in Brazil.

Sample copies of the Illustrated Gospel of John in German were also displayed.

M. Olivier Béguin, General Secre-

tary of the United Bible Societies addressed the Board, stating that was a great pleasure to be at the Bible House in New York and to express thanks for the important part the American Bible Society was taking in the growing worldwide work. He spoke of the fellowship of teamwork and of the sympathetic understanding shown by the staff when dealing with problems of other Bible Societies.

Pastor Robert Steiner, new President of the Union of German Bible Societies, was also present, bringing greetings from the German Bible Societies and expressing thanks for the help and assistance given, especially during the last war years.

How to get your RECORD without fail!

According to a recent Post Office ruling, our subscribers are asked to inform promptly both their postmaster and the BIBLE SOCIETY RECORD at 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N.Y., of any change of address. This will not only facilitate the prompt delivery of their paper but will avoid considerable expense.

IN LOVING MEMORY

of Those Who are Here Named, the Word of God is Sent into All the World

IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY	IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY	IN MEMORY OF	GIVEN BY
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rs. Wayne U. Aldinger	Mr. Wayne U. Aldinger		Miss Babette Bush	W. Eddy	
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rs. Kenneth S. Allam	Mrs. Kenneth S. Allam	Button and Mr. Henry	Miss A. M. Button		Marion Edman
rs. William Mason	Mr. William Mason Allen	V. Button		Lee E. Ely	Mrs. J. R. Ely
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Annie Borgman		Warren Delmar	Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Lassiter	Mr. and Mrs. Louis	Mr. Edward A. Westcott
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	Niemeyer		of the First Presby. Church	A. Louise Henn	Sister
			of Jefferson City, Mo.		

PLEASE NOTE!

During the Jubilee year of the United Bible Societies of the world, we intended to report each month the names of those who have been memorialized by their Christian friends. The great response and limitation of space make it necessary to discontinue publishing these names.

Names received before April 5th will appear in future issues. We feel certain that friends of the American Bible Society will continue to order and use memorial cards.

*A Loving Tribute
to Bring the Light of
Christian Faith into
Other Lives*

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Imagine me with not a worry in the world!

I never thought my old age would be so happy. Now that I have time to do little things for people, and am not a burden to anyone, I am loved and welcomed everywhere I go.

All this because I once read about the wonderful work of translating and distributing the Holy Scriptures that the American Bible Society is able to do because of the success of its Annuity Plan.

I thought, here is a chance to help spread the Word of God, one of the most important of all Christian duties, and help myself at the same time.

So as soon as I got a little money together I bought an American Bible Society Annuity Agreement. The very generous income I immediately began to receive helped me to buy another and another. That's why I have such a nice little income today.

Do invest in this absolutely safe Plan which has been operating successfully for more than 100 years. In years to come you'll be so grateful!

Send today for "A Gift That Lives," the booklet that gives you all the details.

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City

Zone

State